

POEMS EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW. .

IN QUEST.

John Greenleaf Whittier is one of America's most famous and popular poets. The following extract is from one of his longer poems, which is justly considered as among the choicest of his many poetical expressions on religions themes:

ng extract is from one of his tenger poems, which is flistly the choicest of his many poetical expressions on religions the "The riddle of the world is understood Only by him who knows that God is Good; As only he can feel who makes his love. The ladder of his faith, and climbs shove on the rounds of his best instincts, draws no line Between mere human goodness and divine, but judging God by what in him is best, with a child's love leans on a Father's breast, and hears unmoved, the old creeds habble still of kingly power and dread captice of will; hary of blessing, prodigal of curse, The pitiless doomsman of the Universe, hatred ask for love? Can selfishness write to self-denial? Is He less than man in kindly dealing? Can He break fis own great law of fatherhood, forsake And curse His children? Not for earth and heaven in geparate tables of the law be given!

No rule can bind which He Himself denies—
The truths of Time are not eternal lies."

RESOLVE.

To keep my health! To do my work! To live!
To see to it I grow, and gain and give!
Never to look behind me for one hour!
To wait in meekness, and to walk in power!
But always fronting for ward to the light!
Always and ever facing toward the right—
Robbed, starved, defeated fallen wide astray—
On with what strength I have—
Back to the way!

the Brahmaputra river, and his thrilling experiences of imprisonment and torture in Tibet are narrated in his book, "In the Forbidden Land." He marched with the allied troops to Pekin in 1900, and was the first Anglo-Saxon to enter the "Forbidden City."

The letters of John Ruskin to Charles

Ellot Norton will be published in book form next autumn. Professor Norton was Ruskin's closest American friend,

continued practically until Rus-

A new story written by Kate Douglas

A new story written by Kate Douglas Wiggin, with the assistance of three British friends, is coming out in September. "The Affair at the Inn" is to be the title, and Virginia is the name of the heroine—a young person who is mentioned as fascinating.

Henry Seton Merriman, author of 'Barlaseh of the Guard' (McClure-

Shan Bullock's new novel, "The Red-Leaguers," is a story of Ireland fighting for freedom and, in a certain way, al-most a political tract. It has been

feorge Wyndham, the chief secretary for Ireland, himself, a literary man, known for his scholarly editing of Elizabethan literature. Mr. Wyndham wrote: "I am reading The Read-Leag-uers' with deep interest for, quite apart

tion and yet lose their hatred and an-tagonism is my earnest wish."

Booth Tarkington, the author of "The fwo Vanrevels," having spent some nonths in Italy, has become ambitious

in the direction of art. As a college man he was noted for his ability as a draughtsman, and it is said that he is now warming again to his first love and will himself illustrate some of his stor-

es, which are to appear in the near

. . .

One of the most attractive phases of American literary life today is the in-terest and enthusiasm manifested by the older and established authors to-wards the recruits. Mr. Howells is one

who is always ready to welcome the arrival of a new and sincere talent. Mr.

Joel Chandler Harris is another, Re-cently a volume of stories of animal folk-lore of the south, entitled "At the

Big House," appeared from the pen of Miss Anne Virginia Culbertson. Mr. Harris might have regarded it as an

nvasion of his peculiar bailiwick. But he didn't. He wrote a letter to the pub-

lishers at once, full of warm apprecia-tion and just praise, "'At the Big House,'" he said, "has carried me back

to old times by a most delightful road. It is a charming book. There is a color

about it—an atmosphere, a delicat touch—that is so rarely found in Amer

lean books that certain critics have claimed it to be entirely lacking. But the truth is, that only a woman of

And Uncle Remus should know, if

An interesting summer trip is being planned by Miss Alice MacGowan and Mrs. Grace MacGowan Cooke, the joint authors of the new cattle-county story,

"Huldah." Information has come to them that the last bit of open range land in New Mexico has been sold to

parties who will remove the cattle and bring in sheep. So they are going out for one last look at the fields which they have made peculiarly their own in fletion. With the vanishing of the open

range, the fencing of pastures, the bringing in of sheep and the breaking

up of public domain into small farms there passes forever that picturesque and elemental life which is told of from

the masculine viewpoint in "The Vir-ginian" and from the feminine view-point in "Huldah."

The story of the romantic movement

in France is so thoroughly a twice-told tale that Dr. Brandes' account may be passed over in favor of his separate

discussion of the great figures in French literature. In his chapter upon George Sand he remarks that her pro-

ductivity was almost equal to that of the elder Dumas, and that her works fill

110 closely printed volumes. After briefly narrating the salient features of her life, she analyzes briefly the plots

and characters of her bestknown romances, emphasizing especially the fac

that her view of men and women was strongly colored by the results of her own married life. To Balzac, the giant of them all, are given six chapters, in which are set forth with penetrative in-

of strongly marked types. That may retain their strength and di

was Ruskin's closest American frie and their correspondence, beginning

SMOTES.

That there is some reward in novel writing and that ther is some truth in publishers' claims to great editions of publishers claims to great editions of popular novels issued by them is indicated by the fact that the estate of Henry Seton Merriman, the author of "Barlasch of the Guard," who recently died, amounted to more than \$200,000. The royalties from "Barlasch of the Guard," which has sold among the best selling books in the United States, centributed no small amount to this tributed no small amount to this

Certrade Atherton's novel, "Rulers of Kings," is in process of being trans-lated into German. Apropes of some American criticisms of the book, ques-tioning the accuracy of Mrs. Atherton's ecounts of court life, it is interesting tioning the accuracy of Mrs. Atherton's accounts of court life, it is interesting to know that the author has received numerous letters from Germany and Austria approving the book, especially in its descriptions of royalty.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, who returned immediately to her English home in Kent, has written a new story entitled, "In the Closed Room," It is to be published serially in McClure's

Gelett Burgess and Will Irwin, au-thors of "The Picaroons" and "The Reign of Queen Isyl," are reported to be meditating a serious novel on San Reign of Queen 1821 meditating a serious novel on San Francisco life. Their efforts so far have been in the comedy spirit, but they believe that San Francisco and the Paclific coast offer more suggestive literary material to the writer than any other place in the world.

Mrs. Craigie's novel, "The Flute of Pan," on which she has been engaged for some years, is to be published in September. . . .

L. C. Page& Co. announce a four-volume edition of Disraeli's works.

Mrs. Humphry Ward is still in Italy novel, "The Marriage of William Ashe.

H. Rider Haggard's brother, Colonel Haggard, has just completed a book of French historical memories, entitled "Louis XIV in Court and Camp."

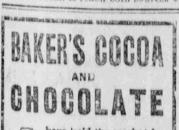
Mrs. Mary E. Wilkins Freeman's new volume of stories. "The Givers," said to be the best she has ever written, will be issued shortly by the London house of Harper & Brothers.

What ought to be a book of great interest is the proposed "Life of Renan." by Dr. Barry. The priest's estimate of the French thinker will be looked for curiosity and will no doubt excite

burning discussion. Mrs. Craigie (John Oliver Hobbes) whose novels have generally dealt with contemporary social life, and especially with fashion, is now writing a historical novel in which Napoleon Bonaparte and Warren Hastings are the chief charac-

The death of Mrs. Humpfiry Ward's brother, W. T. Arnold, removes "one of the ablest, most accomplished most ac-tive of tournalists" from English litertive of lournalists" from English literary circles. Mr. Arnold was only 51, and, though for years disabled by illness, his work was unremitting. He was "head bey" at Rugby, and a great fargetts. was "head boy" at Rugby, and a great favorite there. His house was one of the literary centers of Manchester, and he gathered about him some of the best known men and women of the day. He was deeply interested in the work of his famous sister, and it is known that his knowledge of Lancashire was an important aid to Mrs. Ward in writing "The History of David Grieve."

A. Henry Savage Landor, author of A. Henry Savage Landor, author of pany books of truvel, is a grandson of Waiter Savage Landor, the English man of letters. Mr. Landor was born at Florence, and received his education there and at Julian's in Paris as an and student. His career as a traveler began with a tour through Japan, China, Korea, South Mongolia, Tibet, etc., and America, Australia and North Africa. With the true gift of the explorer. Mr. Landor soon turned his steps toward unknown lands. He was the first white man to reach both sources of



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LEAVES FROM OLD ALBUMS.



DR. ISAACSON,

The Notorious Religious Fraud and Mountebank.

Many persons will immediately identify the features of Dr. Isaacson, the religious mountebank and fraud who flourished so pyrotechnically in Utah some 12 or 15 years ago. It will be remembered that he became a member of the "Mormon" faith with such unseemly haste as to arouse suspicion on the part of all thoughtful persons. His zeal, too, was decidedly mercurial, up today and down tomorrow. He announced himself a scholar of no mean ability and declared he had a great mission to perform in the field of letters, and at once declared he had a great mission to perform in the field of letters, and at once set about translating the Book of Mormon into Hebrew. Meanwhile he had little good to say of the Hebrew race from which he himself sprang. His religious ardor becoming reduced he engaged in a number of dishonorable transactions and fied from the state, being next heard from in Denver, where he joined one of the Protestant churches with a flourish of trumpets almost as great as displayed in Utah. But his career in the Queen City of the Plains was even briefer in the Colorado metropolis than it was in Salt Lake, He disappeared from there between two days and next turned up in Chicago where he got into water so deep that he found it extremely difficult to swim ashore. After that his whereabouts became a matter of uncertainty to Utah people. He was occasionally heard from, but always as a religious fakir.

"Barlaseh of the Guard" (McClure-Phillips), was an extremely slow and careful writer, chiefly because he felt that he must know his ground thoroughly before he dared to put pen to paper. It took him nearly a year and a half to write a book, and when he engaged on such a story of "Barlasch of the Guard," he worked just as hard as if he were "boning up" to pass a stiff historical examination in the period. rhetorical sense. But after Balzac's death his works began to be much read abroad as well as in France, and foreigners made very light of this shortcoming of his. The man who understands a language well enough to read it, but has not sufficient knowledge to appreciate all its refinements, easily forgives sins of style when they are compensated for by rare and attractive reading. And this was the position of the great novel-reading European public. Educated Italians, Austrians, Poles, Russians, etc., read Balzac with unailoyed pleasure, paying small heed to the inequality of his style. The fault will, however, undoubtedly affect the duration of his work. Nothing formless or only half-formed endures. The great Comedie Humaine (like the 10,000 stadia long painting which Aristotle maintained would not be a work of art at all) with real be varietied to respect to the proposeries. rhetorical sense. most a political tract. It has been praised heartily in England, but the words of commendation which Mr. Bullock most appreciates are those contained in a letter he received from Mr. George Wyntham, the chief secretary for Ireland himself. from the clean-cut style in which the story is told—and to get both a story and a fixle is much in these days—it contains boid and convincing portraits of strongly marked types. That they was retain their strongth and distinct time during which its separate frag-ments retain their place in the litera-ture of the world will be exactly proportioned to the degree of artistic per-fection possessed by each. After the lapse of a few centuries they are not likely to be read simply because of the material they provide for the student of the history of civilization."

One day not long ago, Mr. Francis Lynde, the author of The Grafters, was sitting in the grill room of his club. An acquaintance came up to him and said: "Lynde, what did you have against Governor Blank of Blank that that you should pillory his so unmercifully in your book?"

The wily author laughed and remarked that he hadn't named Governor Blank, had he?

"You might as well have named him." was the reply. "Everybody who reads the book will recognize him."

Yet it is curious to note the diversity of opinion in regard to the personage from whom the Hon, Jasper T. Bucks, Grafter-in-chief, was painted; and no two critics can apparently agree

Bucks, Grafter-in-chief, was painted; and no two critics can apparently agree on the state of which he was governor. One says it is very evident that Montana is meant. Another thinks that Colorado is the only possible field for the plot. A third says that any one can see that Kansas in the Populistic period is the locale of The Grafters, and no one save Mr. Lynde's acquaintance of the grill room has hit upon the real governor and the real state. great sensibility can write stories for children as they should be written—as, in fact, Miss Culbertson has written them. The book should be one of the most substantial successes of the seareal governor and the real state.

≈BOOKS.≈

The reviews of Mr. Henry W. Elson's "History of the United States" are progressively enthusiastic. "There is no other equally comprehensive and no other equally comprehensive and generally available history of the Unit sed States in the same compass. In matters of fact, it is fully in line with the results of most modern research. In historical perspective it is particu-larly strong. What is of highest im-

But after Balzac's began to be much read as in France, and forary light of this shortary new who under-

Another magazine, The Lutheran of Philadelphia, says that "the book is on the whole not only the best single volume in the English language on American history, but it is also the most interesting,—two qualities which are very rare in combination.'

"Manchu and Muscovite" is the title "Manchu and Muscovite" is the title of Mr. Putnam Weale's important new book on Manchuria, which The Macmillan company have published. The volume consists largely in letters from Manchuria written during last autumn, popular in character and packed with interesting facts about the country and the people and the way in which business is done and affairs are carried on. A historical sketch entitled "Prologue to the Crisis" gives a com-plete account of the Manchurian frontiers and their history from the earliest days, and of the growth and final meet-ing of the Russian and Chinese empires in the Amur regions. The book will be fully illustrated from photographs.

Cateway series of English texts. General editor, Henry Van Dyke, Princeton university. George Eliot's Silas Marner, Edited by Wilbur Lucius Cross, Ph. D., professor of English in the Sheffield Scientific school of Yale unisneiheid Scientine school of Yale university, and Burke's Speech on Conciliation with America. Edited by William MacDonald, Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of History in Brown university. sity, are the latest additions to this new series, which will include all the college entrance requirements in English. The books before us are convenish. The books before us are conven-fent in form, attractively and substan-tially bound, and printed from clear type. Their very reasonable price will place them within the reach of all. The place them within the reach of all. The editorial work has been entrusted to scholars of special fitness. Each volume contains a portrait and a biography of the author, and an introduction dealing with the subject of the book, the way in which it is written, its relation to human life, and its place in literature. The texts are derived from the latest authoritative sources. The notes are added with the aim, not to notes are added with the aim, not to make as many as possible, but to make them as useful as possible. They treat of difficultues in the text, allusions and references, and points of construction.

The editing of these volumes is carefully and judiciously done, the books being treated as pieces of literature, rather than as frameworks for erudite theories of criticism. The actual needs and capacities of the young people who are to read and study them have been born in mind. The series should be welcomed by all teachers of English literature, for it incorporates the best that acknowledged experts can do to make the texts easier to understand, more attractive, and more profitable to the young reader.—American Book Co

WHAT THE BEST MAGAZINES CONTAIN.

In the July number of the Bookman, Francis Gribble writes of "George Sand;" William Loring Andrews of "The First Poet of New Netherland;" Yone Noguchi of "Japanese Humor and Caricature," and Edward G. Riggs writes of "The Newspaper and Politics" in the fifth article of the series devoted to "The American Newspaper." The current books are reviewed or dis-The current books are reviewed of discussed by a number of writers, and there are the usual entertaining "Chronicle and Comment," "The Bookman's Letter Box" and the useful information of "The Book Mart." The illustrations are numerous, the frontischer being a reproduction in colors of being a reproduction in colors o a drawing by Thackeray, showing the

During the summer months some member of the family is sure to suffer from Cramps, Bowel Complaint or Diarrhoea. Always keep a bottle of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in the house for such cases. A dose at the first which are set forth with penetrative insight the great powers, the extravagances and the shortcomings of the author of "Le Comedie Humaine." "His style was uncertain," says Dr. Brandes, "It was at times vuigarly trivial, at times bombastic. And deficiency in the matter of style is a serious deficiency; because what distinguishes art from that which is not art, is just that determined exclusion of what is almost, but not quite right, to which we give the name of style. It is, moreover, a particularly objectionable deficiency in the eyes of Frenchmen, with their keen

"Procession of the English Royal Fam

A distinctive feature of every number of the Atlantic Monthly is a well written and thoughtful article on some burning question of the day. In the July number Archibald H. Grimke has such a paper on "Why Disfranchisement is Bad," holding that, apart from its illegality it is distinctly intricated. such a paper on "Why Disfranchisement is Bad." holding that, apart from
its filegality, it is distinctly injurious
to the best interests of the white south
as well as bad for the negro, and that
it forebodes a sometime future contest
in consequence "between the labor system of the south and the labor system of the south and the labor system of the rest of the nation." The opening
paper of the number is on "Washington in Wartime," drawn from Ralph
Waldo Emerson's journal of a visit to
that city in 1852, recording pen pictures
and notes of conversations with Lincoln, Seward, Sumner, Chase and others. Prof. Norton's third installment
of Ruskin's "Letters" covers one of
the critical and most interesting periods
of Ruskin's life, and shows Ruskin's
fine contempt for the United States
during our rebellion period. Arnold
Haultain contributes a capital article
on "The Mystery of Golf," and "The
Day We Celebrate" is amusingly depicted in a long series of records of
the day and its doings from the diaries
of an old-time clergyman. John Burroughs writes forcibly and entertainingly upon the much discussed tonie. "The roughs writes forcibly and entertaining, ly upon the much discussed topic, "The Literary Treatment of Nature," and Charles Mulford Robinson discusses "The Artistic Possibilities of Advertising," "Herbert Spencer" is discussed

LIFE HAS WORTH NOW

HAPPY ENDING OF EIGHT YEARS OF WEAKNESS AND DESPONDENCY.

Mrs. Miller Tells How She Succeeded in Recovering Lost Interest in Life-Others May Profit.

"For eight years," says Mrs. Mollie E. Miller of Wilmington, Ohio: "I suffered from dizziness and palpitation of the heart, and after the birth of my little girl five years ago I remained very weak. I was nervous, down-hearted and could not sleep. Every month I lost a full week in prostration that left me scarcely strength enough to drag myself around the house. Whenever that time approached it always filled me with dread. It often scemed to me that I would rather die than live.

me that I would rather die than live.

"One day last spring a friend of mine strongly recommended Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and I was induced to give them a trial for my troubles. Before I got through the first how I experienced great relief. For the box I experienced great relief. For the first time in all these years I felt that I was gaining a little strength. I con-tinued to use them with hopefulness, and by the time I had taken four boxes I did not feel like the same woman. The weakness, the melancholy, the restless-ness from which I suffered so long have disappeared and life is entirely different. I am glad that I took them myself and I heartly recommend them o others for what they have done for

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are what hundreds of women need to change a wretched into a happy existence, to enable them to get rid of small worries altogether, to bear heavy burdens easily and to find daily enjoyment in life. Antemia, irregularities, nervous debility and prostration yield promptly to the invigorating influence of these marvelous pills. They not only cure all forms of female weakness, but they supply a fresh store of vitality to the blood and the nerves and create conditions that nerves and create conditions that are lasting good health. They are sold by all druggists.

by Prof. William James: "Petrarch" by H. D. Sedgwick; "Massachusetts and Washington" (apropos of Gov. An-drew and Senator Hoar) by M. A. De Wolfe Howe, and "Books New and Old"treats of books on American fin-ance. In fiction Robert Herrick" ance. In fiction Robert Herrick's strong story, "The Common Lot," ap-proaches a dramatic climax. Complete short stories are "Mahala Joe," a touching Indian story by Mary Austin; "A Dissatisfied Soul," a psychological romance by Annie Trumbull Slosson, and "Ars Amoris," a whimsical character sketch by Arthur Colton. In the Contributors' club appears a sprightly and amusing defense of the personally operated typewriter as an aid to original composition. inal composition.

Israel Zangwill contributed the principal story for the Youth's Companion this week. It is entitled "The Red Mark" and is a story of the Ghetto, that portion of London which has furnished much of the material which the author has used to such advantage in his literature of the research. The special article is enerary work. The special article is en-titled "The Cossacks" and is written by the Princess Kuropatkin.

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS.

The following 27 books will be added to the public library Tuesday morning, July 26, 1904:

BIOGRAPHY. Benson-Rosetti.

Century Association-Clarence King temoirs.
Colville—Duchess Sarah.
Krans—William Butler Yeats.
Moore—Dairy of Sir John Moore, 2

Wolseley-Story of a soldier's life, 2 Prime Ministers of Queen Victoria, 9

Campbell-Viscount Palmerston. Dunckley—Lord Melbourne,
Froude—Earl of Beaconsfield,
Gordon—Earl of Aberdeen,
Reid—Lord John Russell,
Russell—Right Honorable William E.

lladstone. McCarthy-Sir Robert Peel. Saintsbury-Earl of Derby. Traill-Marquis of Salisbury. MISCELLANEOUS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Breeze Publishing Co.—Casco Bay
Directory, (reference).

Bryan—Dictionary of Painters and
Engravers, vol. 1, 2, 3, (reference).
City of Chicago—Ninth Annual Report of the Civil Service Commission.
Cooper—Chronological and Alphabetical Record of the Engagements of the
Civil War, (reference). livil War, (reference). Ploetz—Epitome of Universal His-

tory, (reference). Strong—Social Progress, (reference). U. S. Census Bureau—Occupations at the Twelfth Census. U. S. Interstate Commerce Commis-sion—Seventeenth Annual Report.

FICTION. Brow-Arthur Merwin, 2 vols. Brown—Edgar Huntly. Brown—Jane Talbot. Brown—Ormond; Clara Howard Brown—Wieland. Cragle—The Vineyard. Rives—Castway. Ryan—Miss Moccasins. Williams—Price of Youth.

THE NEW STENOGRAPHER.

I have a new stenographer-she came to work today, She told me that she wrote the latest system. Two hundred words a minute seemed to her, she said, like play, *
And word for word at that—she never
missed 'em!
i gave her some dictation—a letter to a

man, And this, as I remember it, was how the letter ran:

"Dear Sir: I have your favor, and in reply would state That I accept the offer in yours of re-

cent date
I wish to say, however, that under no condition Can I afford to think of your free lance

proposition.

I shall begin tomorrow to turn the matter out;
The copy will be ready by August 10th about.
Material of this nature should not be rushed unduly.
Thanking you for your favor, I am yours, very truly."

She took it down in shorthand, with She took it down in shorthand, with apparent ease and grace;
She didn't call me back all in a flurry.
Thought I, "At last I have a girl worth keeping 'round the place;"
Then said, "Now write it out—you needn't hurry."
The typewriter she tackled—now and

then she struck a key, And after thirty minutes this is what she handed me:

"Dear sir, I have the Feever, and in a And I expect the Offer as you Have reasoned it, I wish to see however That under any condition

Can I for to Think of a free lunch Preposishun? I Shal be in tomorrow To., turn the mother out. The cap will be red and Will cost 10,

about.
Material of this nation should not rust
N. Dooley.
Thinking you have the Feever, I am,
Yours very Truely."

Meredith's Friends Reassured Over "The Master" Interview

COUR LONDON LITERARY LETTER, &

Special Correspondence.

ONDON, July 13 .- It is quite im-

possible to write about literary happenings here without referring to the striking interview with George Meredith, which has just appeared in the London Chronicle. During many years of invalidism the mind of the greatest living writer of English has maintained its brilliancy and its possessor kept closely in touch with current events, but it was feared by his admirers that Mr. Meredith's recent serious illness might have proved too much for even his amazing mental vitality. The recluse of Box Hill is now seventy-six. No one, however, needs to do more than read this interview with George Meredith to be assured that all is well with the mind that produced "Richard Feveral." Evidently, however, "the Moster," as he is called however, "the Master," as he is called reverently here, will write no more, as he says that since this last illness he has felt "a peculiar disinclination for work of all kinds," and adds that for work of all kinds," and adds that the thought of taking up a pen is "quite abhorrent." . But Mr. Meredith says that though his mind "now seems as if it could not give out any more," he is as receptive as ever. And there is no doubt about that. He raust read his morning paper with avidity, for we find him perfectly informed upon every tonic which the world, and particularly topic which the world, and particularly this country, is discussing today. The war in the east, the subject of women's war in the east, the subject of women's rights, the political situation in England, the question about conscription, the tendency of modern journalism—with all of these topics he is absolutely familiar, and he is equally incisive in dealing with each one of them. But probably it is what Mr. Meredith had to say regarding literature matters that will be read with most interest in the will be read with most interest in the United States. In modern book-reviewing he finds

In modern book-reviewing he finds what he terms "an almost excessive urbanity of treatments." "It seems as if critics were afraid to blame anything," he says. "This is particularly evident in reviews of poetry which have been very frequent of late. Our laureate is wrong in supposing reopie will not read poetry now. It as that they were never so anxious to read it. They are continually on the look-out for it, and they appear to be receiving a fair quantity, which is nearly always praised." praised

praised."
"Critics used to lay about them with a will. To be sure, it was rather a broadsword and bludgeon style. But now, I think, criticism is becoming too urbane. It is true the general level of literature has immensely improved.

Their real meaning is that they are afraid of being called out and getting shot at. So they pay others to do the killing and dying for them."

Meredith's own creed with regard to the fear of death is characteristic. "No one," he says, "should consider death or think of it as worse than going from one room into another. Every night when I go to bed I anow I may not rise from it. That is nothing to me. I hope I shall die with a good laugh, like the old French woman. The cure came wailing to her about her selvation and things like that, and she told him her best improper story and died. The God of Nature and human nature does not dislike humor, you may be sure, and would rather hear it in extremity than the formless official drone. Let us believe in a hearty God—one to love more than to fear."

In referring to America Mr. Meredith calls her "the shrewdest lender of men," and adds, "the Americans have dowered the world with priceless inventions, promise of the great things to he expected of them. And they are hu-

tions, promise of the great things to be expected of them. And they are humane, a large hearted people; but they are a very young people still, and hitherto, perhaps the country has been

rather too large for them."
George Meredith's now almost constant companion is Edward Clodd, who like Mr. Stedman and Remeth Grahame, is both banker and author, his works being chiefly on philosophical questions.

Mrs. Sidney Webb's declaration, at the Women Writers' dinner, that she care; little for novels and "positively the Women Writers' dinner, that she care; little for novels an i "positively hated" poetry, affords striking evidence of the mental limitations of an exceptionally giftd woman. Before her marriage she was well known as Miss Beatrice Potter, and enjoyed the distinction of being one of the few women whom Herbert Spencer, as he relates in his autobiography, greatly esteemed on account of her intellectual attainments. The great philosopher regarded her as one of his chosen disciples, and it was a source of disappointment to him when she became an ardent Socialist, although her conversion was largely due to the great philosopher's doctrine of Land Nationalism, which, yielding to the pessimism of old age, he subsequently retracted. In this latest literary pronouncement she has again shown that she possesses the courage of her convictions. There are, however, not a few women in these day who sak to acquire a reputation for strongminiedness by assuming contempt for imaginative literature. imaginative literature.

urbane. It is true the general level of literature has immensely improved. In my youth we had a few great names—Dickens, Thackeray, George Ellot. I think you have nothing to compare with them now in the front rank. But in the rank close behind the front your attainment is certainly much higher than anything we then possessed."

Much of what Mr. Meredith says will be resented in this country. For instance, his declaration that fear of death is the real cause of the English objection to conscription. "Men come to me," he says, "and say their trade would suffer or they could not spare two years of their apprenticeship.

Relations between authors and publishers being so frequently strained in these days it is worth noting, that the late Sir H. M. Stanley named Mr. Marsston, long the leading spirit of Marsston, Low & Co., as one of his executors. Stanley made a lot of money out of the books which this firm published for him, but the comparatively large fortune which he left—\$750,000—is generally regarded as evidence that his frequent visits to the city were not unconnected with stock exchange speculations, in which he showed a rare facture would suffer or they could not spare two years of their apprenticeship.

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